

# A Beginner's Guide to Croatian Research

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## Background on Croatia

Croatia is a nation and land of remarkable diversity and depth. Originally organized in 1946 as a Republic of the South Slav Federation and now an independent country, Croatia is comprised of the old Austrian territory of Dalmatia, most of Istria, and the former Hungarian crown land of Croatia-Slavonia. It extends in a crescent from the fertile plain between the Danube, Drava, and Sava rivers west to the Gulf of Venice, and then southward along the Adriatic coast to the frontier of Montenegro. It is bounded on the north by Slovenia and Hungary, and on the east by Serbia. Within this crescent, borders follow those of Bosnia-Herzegovina south to the Crna Gora corridor. Prior to the end of World War I the population was 82% peasant. At this time the economy of Croatia-Slavonia was based on agriculture and cattle breeding; the mountain folk of Istria and Dalmatia have been traditionally either wine and olive growers, or fishermen and seafarers. The people of both

areas are primarily Croatian and Roman Catholic.

The Croats, or *Chrobáti Hrváti*, migrated to the Danube valley in the 6th century C.E. from a legendary region called White Croatia. This area, believed to be largely in Ukraine, lies north of the Carpathian mountains between the Dnieper, Dniester, Pripet, and Vistula rivers. Their immigration brought them south along the Dalmatian coast to the Roman stronghold of Salona (conquered in 614)<sup>1</sup>.

Fig. 1 - The Croatian coat-of-arms, ascribed to Stipan Držislav, ruler of Croatia from 969-997.

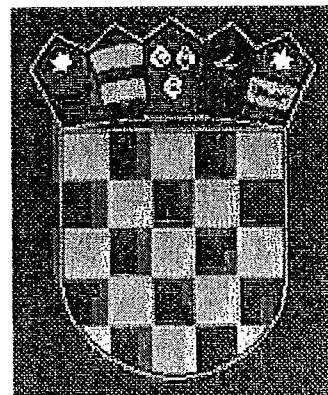
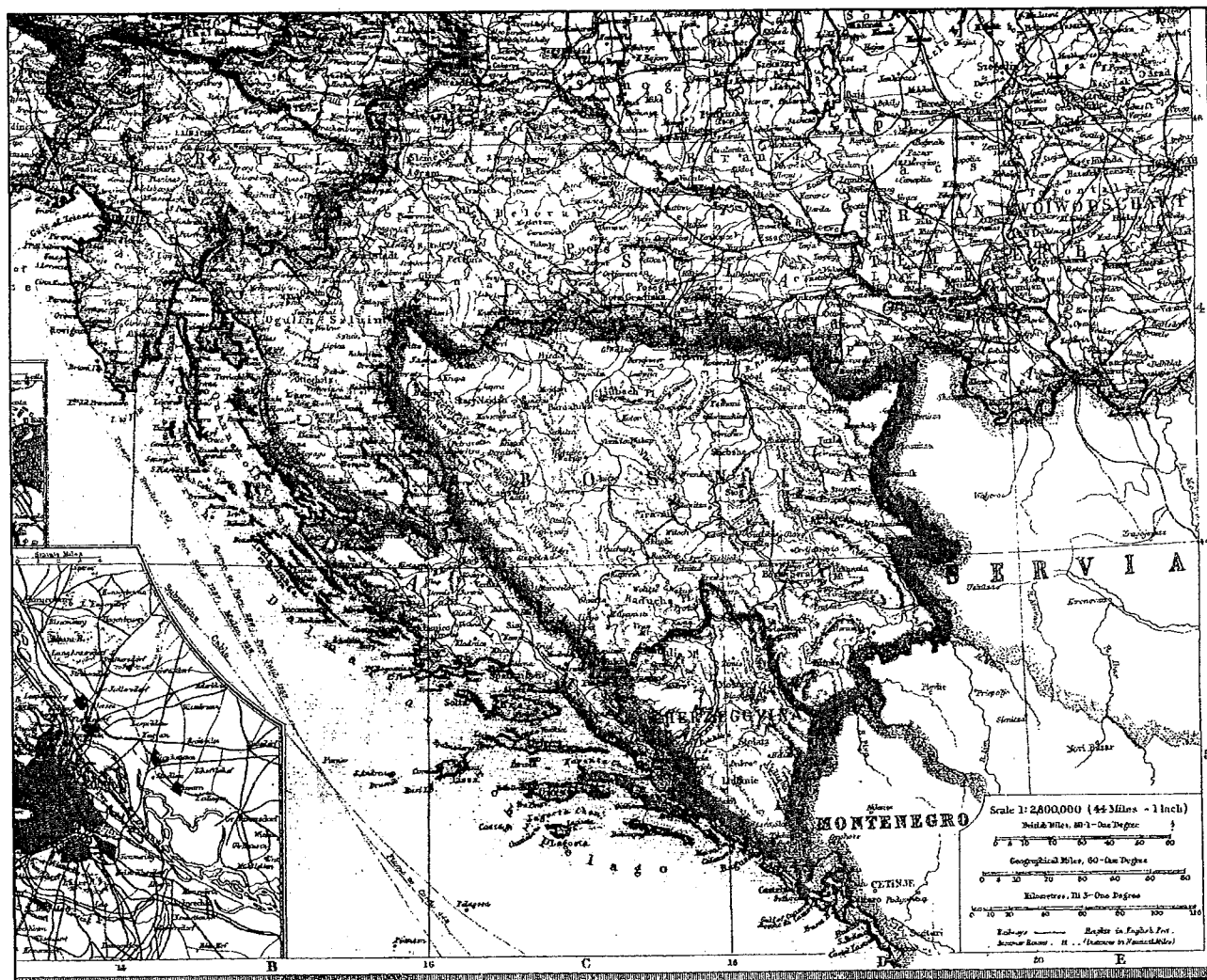


Fig. 2 - The Balkans in the late nineteenth century



Slowly, through the intrigue and incest which defined the Middle Ages, the power and influence of Croatia was whittled away. With the extinction of the Arpads (the Hungarian national dynasty who introduced feudalism to Croatia), the Croats crowned Ladislas, a Neapolitan prince, as King in 1403. This ruler, grossly uninterested in his newly acquired country, promptly sold Dalmatia to Venice, which ruled it for the next four centuries. The appearance of the Turks in the Balkans during the 15th century imposed a period of hard struggle. Bosnia, which under Kotromanic(h)

This then is the historical backdrop to the documents discussed below. The church books of Croatia and Slavonia reflect this cultural turmoil in many ways, most notably in linguistic diversity. The vital records of a single parish in northern Dalmatia may be written in Glagolitic, Italian, Latin, Croatian, and Hungarian. Generally, record types that form a topical concern for this “Beginner’s Guide” are those microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) and available at the Family History Library (FHL) or any of its over 3,000 affiliate Family History Centers. Materials such as Napoleonic civil registration of the Illyrian provinces *et al.* are outside the immediate experience of the author, and so are not discussed.

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### Size and Scope of FHL Collection

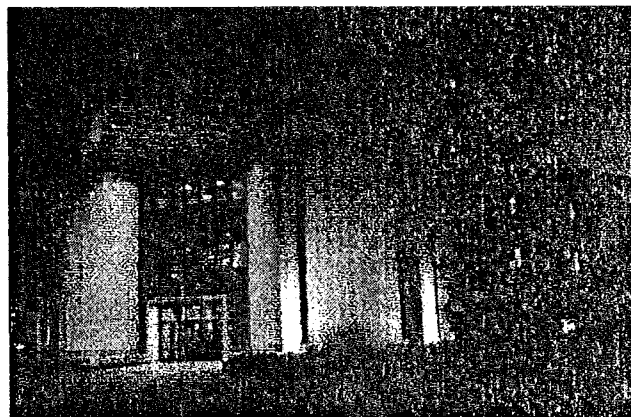
As of 01 May 1999 the FHL Croatian collection consisted of church books from 987 Roman Catholic, 217 Orthodox, and 13 Greek Catholic parishes. Also included are congregational records for 15 Jewish communities. The GSU has been filming in Croatia since March 1985. The original microfilming agreement, signed on 18 December 1984 by the then Departmental Director Richard G. Scott, was for 750,000 frames. While that exposure count was surpassed some 7 years ago, the Society still operates two cameras in Croatia. Microfilming thus far has been organized into 10 projects summarized as follows:

- 1) Various church books from the State Archive of Croatia
- 2) Orthodox church records of the Blaski diocese
- 3) Documents from Croatian district church archives
- 4) Church records from the State Historical Archive of Osijek
- 5) Material from the Historical Archive of Varasdin
- 6) Catholic church books from the Historical Archives of Zadar and Split
- 7) Orthodox church books from the Historical Archives of Zadar and Split
- 8) Church books from the Historical Archives of Dubrovnik
- 9) Records of the Rijeka archive
- 10) Records from the archive at Pazin

At present, over 4,000,000 manuscript pages on 2,692 35 mm. reels of microfilm, each comprised of an average of 750 frames (2 pages of text per frame) are cataloged and available for use. Primary areas of focus are the Austrian Kingdoms of Croatia, Dalmatia, Slavonia, and the Istrian peninsula. General span dates for these films are the latter 1500s to the 1940s.

The FHL also has extensive records filmed under contracts with the Austrian *Kriegsarchiv*, many of which deal with Croatian topics. These include, but are not limited to, 13,100 reels of Austrian military records and 511 reels of denominational registration (primarily Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Greek Catholic, and Jewish).

Fig. 4 - The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah



### Record Types

The record groups microfilmed in Croatia are diverse, forming a linguistic tapestry as varied and beautiful as the Balkans themselves. In the broadest terms the FHL collection for Croatia and Slavonia begins in the mid-1400s and continues through the end of world War I. Significant termination dates are 1869 for Army and Naval records, and 1920 for church books from the former Yugoslavia. Church records, in the main, begin in the later 1600s. The earliest examples are from the 1460s.

Linguistic diversity of the collection is greater than for most other geographic areas. Languages of primary interest are:

German: a Germanic language of the West Germanic group, spoken widely in Central Europe and the national language of Austria and Germany. Germany was the official language of the Austrian Empire, and as such, the language of record for the Austrian military.

Glagolitic: properly speaking, Glagolitsa is a method of writing introduced into the Balkans during the latter ninth century. The Glagolitic literature of Dalmatia, however, took on a character so unique that it can be considered a dialect of Serbo-Croatian. Glagolitsa has the same number of letters as the Cyrillic alphabet and the sound values are identical. In most circumstances one can read the text of a Glagolitic manuscript if (s)he is familiar with Croatian and the epigraphy.

Hungarian: a Uralic language of the Finno-Uralic group spoken throughout Hungary and parts of Croatia, Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Hungarian has been written in a modified Roman alphabet since the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and is used often in Croatian church books of circa 1830-1890.

Italian: a Romance language spoken primarily in Italy with a sound system virtually identical to Spanish. Italian possesses a grammar similar to other Romance languages, has a simple syntax and is mildly inflected. Italian is common in the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century Roman Catholic parish registration of Dalmatia.

Latin: an Indo-European language, moderately inflected, belonging to the Italic group. Latin originated among the tribes of the south Tiber River and spread throughout Western Europe with the expansion of Roman influence. Modern Romance languages developed from the Latin spoken in many parts of the Roman Empire.

Serbo-Croatian: a South Slavic language native to Croats and Serbs throughout the former Yugoslavia. Croatian and Serbian are actually the same language, save for a few insignificant vocabulary differences and the use of different alphabets.

### Military Documents

The Austrian Empire existed as a political force from 1806 to 1918. Known as the Austro-Hungarian Empire after 1866, its boundaries at times contained parts or all of present day Austria, Bosnia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

The administration of this empire required a vast military structure that played an important role in the lives of

- 1) Military Commissions, 1466-1866. These contain officers' commissions, instructions, appointments, information concerning military service, and biography.
- 2) Nobility Grants, 1636-1753. This is a collection of grants given for distinguished service or valor.
- 3) Vital Certificates. This is a small, but indexed, collection of birth, marriage, and death certificates.

Fig. 6 - Dubrovnik before the destruction of 1991



the citizenry. When, together with Germany, it was part of the Holy Roman Empire, the term of service was life (age c. 65). After 1802 the term of service was reduced to ten years. Universal conscription was introduced in 1868 and every male citizen was required to serve for three years. This was adjusted downwards to two years in 1912. The Austrian Army did not segregate its forces according to religion. Jew, Protestant, Orthodox, and Catholic served side by side. Excluded from military service were the clergy, nobility, government officials, and some workers in critical industries such as mining and agriculture.<sup>4</sup>

The overwhelming majority of military records relating to Croatia and Slavonia microfilmed by the FHL are from the Military Archives in Vienna. The *Kriegsarchiv* collection, unfortunately, is no longer intact. Many of the more recent documents were claimed by modern successor nations of the empire, including Hungary and Yugoslavia. *Kriegsarchiv* documents are divided into two large fonds: the records of the Central Command and those of individual units.

### Records of the Central Command

This fond is the only possible source of information on Austrian soldiers and officers prior to 1740. Genealogically relevant series are:

- 4) Wills, 1639-1771. This collection is quite incomplete, yet indexed, and is arranged chronologically.
- 5) Pension and Assistance Records. These are organized by unit designator, i.e. regiment. This designation can be determined by consulting the *Schmata*, described in item seven, on the following page. The pension and assistance records include:  
  
Pensions: 1749-1922  
Invalid Office: 1723-1803  
Orphans' Commission: 1702-1770  
Soldier Orphans: 1770-1870  
  
This record type provides name and rank, amount of the pension, a list of disbursements (with the total disbursed for each year), the location of payment, and the soldier's unit. Additional information of genealogical value is the location of payment, usually synonymous with the place of retirement.
- 6) Payment Books, 1753-1819. These documents are completely indexed and record pensions, wages, and salary data, with supplementary biographical data.





Elisabeth Du [sic] Plachy, made Junior Lieutenant 8 February 1813, Senior Lieutenant 7 September of the same year, and Captain 8 December 1817. Carl retired 15 August 1832 after 42 years and 2 months in the Army. He was 63 years old.

Fig. 8 - Foundation Book Record for Carl Heinrich Conrad Buttenschön summarizing his 42-year career

**Carl Heinrich Conrad Buttenschön**

Ort: Hamburg, Geburtsjahr: 1789, Religion: Evangelisch, Stand: Kaufmann, Dienstgrad: Hauptmann.

am 8. März 1832 in Hamburg, Preuss. Regim. (Nr. 10)

als Hauptmann und in Folge davon 3 Malen befördert

**Nachfolge**

Charge	Bezeichnung	Im Jahr	an	Beschreibung
Leutnant	Leutnant	1799	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1800	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1801	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1802	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1803	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1804	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1805	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1806	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1807	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1808	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1809	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1810	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1811	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1812	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1813	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1814	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1815	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1816	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1817	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1818	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1819	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1820	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1821	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1822	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1823	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1824	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1825	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1826	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1827	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1828	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1829	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1830	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1831	11	Erhalten
Hauptmann	Hauptmann	1832	11	Erhalten

**Bezeichnung**

Hauptmann

- 2) **Muster Rolls, 1740-1820.** These records contain name of soldier, place of birth, age, religion, learned occupation, and marital status. After 1770 the rolls include names of dependant children. Musters were taken annually, and indicated soldiers' transfers. Arrangement is by unit.

Fig. 9 - Muster list: Leichtes Bataillon no. 1 of Dalmatia

Nr.	Name	Alter	Religion	Stand	Ort	Tag	Monat	Jahr
1	Joannis Philipovich	21	Orthodox	Legitimus	Magich Malla	21	Decembri	1821
2	Margaretha Berakovich	21	Orthodox	Legitima	Magich Malla	21	Decembri	1821
3	Juliana Katticsich	21	Orthodox	Legitima	Magich Malla	21	Decembri	1821
4	Joannis Philipovich	21	Orthodox	Legitimus	Magich Malla	21	Decembri	1821
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- 3) **Service Records, 1823-1918.** These documents supplement the muster and foundation books with information concerning an officer's actual service record. The collection is quite voluminous and indexed. The records include each officer's true unit designator, name, rank, birth date, marriage information, religion, education, place and date of induction, post-induction schooling, decorations, etc.
- 4) **Records of the Navy, 1760-1918.** Materials from this series are identical to those from the Army. Many of the records have been deaccessioned to the government of Croatia. Access is by unit.
- 5) **Ecclesiastical Registers of Individual Units.** These records are identical to their civilian counterparts discussed below.

### Denominational Vital Records

The genealogically relevant religious documents of Croatia, listed in descending order of sheer volume, are from Roman Catholic, Orthodox (also referred to as Greek, Serbian, and now Croatian Orthodox), Jewish, and Greek Catholic institutions<sup>5</sup>. These records comprise some of the most rewarding materials microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah. Examination reveals their contents to be similar to the vital records of other European nations: births (baptisms), marriages, marriage banns, deaths (burials), and occasionally confirmations, communion records, and *stati animarum*.

### Latin Catholic (Greek and Roman) Documents

Roman and Greek Catholic church books are primarily composed in Latin and/or Serbo-Croatian. The earliest Catholic parish register filmed by the GSU dates to the 1460s, is in Glagolitic script and belongs to an as yet unidentified Dalmatian parish. The oldest identifiable records represent registration from the Adriatic coast (Banj 1587, Hvar 1516, Krk 1565, Rab 1569, Split 1597, Zadar 1569) and the former Austrian Küstenland (Bale 1538, Rovinj 1553).

Croatian Catholic birth records are easy to read and are written with a highly redundant vocabulary and a simple syntax. The example shown in Fig. 10 (opposite page) is reflective of birth records in general. At the top of the page, underlined, is listed the month of registration, *Mense Decembri*, "In the month [of] December." Eight baptisms were performed during this period. The event of the 21<sup>st</sup> is typical of each: *Die 21. Ex Magic Mala. Baptist est Juliana filia legitima Joannis Philipovich, et Margaretha Berakovich conjugum. Lie Juliana Katticsich virgine. Per Joannem Baptistam Milyevich, "On day 21. From Magich Malla. Juliana, a legitimate daughter of the lawfully married Joannis Philipovich and Margaretha [née] Berakovich, was baptized. Godparent was the unmarried Juliana Katticsich. [The baptism was performed] by Djinnis Baptisia Milyevich."*

Fig. 10 - Latin birth register from Nova Kapela, 1814

*Menſe Decembri*

81. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

82. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

83. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

84. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

85. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

86. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

87. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

88. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

89. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

90. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

91. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

92. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

93. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

94. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

95. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

96. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

97. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

98. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

99. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

100. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

*Anno 1814*

*Menſe Januario*

1. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

2. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

3. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

4. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

5. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

6. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

7. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

8. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

9. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

10. *Le. Mathias* Baptizatus *ſp. Mathias* filius legitimus *Joannis*  
*Annae* et *Lea* uxoris conjugum. *Joannis* *Annae* *Chomic* et ceteris.

Latin marriage records are common to the Catholic religions. Fig. 11 is an example from the parish of Kutina for the 7<sup>th</sup> of February, 1807, and poignantly demonstrate that Croatian weddings are indeed family affairs.

- Mathias Kudlek marries Maria (widow of Georg) Kudlek
- Barbara (daughter of Mathias) Kudlek marries Joannes Gredyan
- Stephan Kudlek marries Agatha (dau. of Joannes) Martinich
- Barbara (widow of Joannes, mother of Agatha) Martinich marries Stephan Szmudy
- Blasius (son of Paul) Martinich marries Dorothea Mihacz
- Maria (daughter of Paul) Martinich marries Joseph (son of Lucas) Szmudy
- Emerius (son of Mathias) Szmudy marries Catharina Poszavetric
- Bartholomeus (son of Michael) Martinich marries Rosalia Jagust

The records are uniform in style and content. A transcription the last entry in Fig. 11 reads: *Copulatus e[st] Gregorius adolescens filius defuncti Stephani Mikoleta*

*Sartor, cum delecta sibi sponsa Anastasia vidua defuncti Djinnis Boken. PP Michaelae Mallovich et Georgio Dorkanich, per Joannem Detanovich, Parochum Kutt.* In English: "Gregory, the unwed son of the deceased Stephan Mikolet Sartor, was married to his personally chosen bride, Anastasia, the widow of the deceased Djinnis Boken, by the priest of Kutina, Joannis Detanovich. The witnesses were Michael Mallovich and Georg Dorkanich."

Fig. 11 - Weddings for an extended family in Kutina, 1807

*Anno 1807 Mensis Februarii*

7. *Copulatus e[st] Gregorius adolescens filius defuncti Stephani Mikoleta Sartor, cum delecta sibi sponsa Anastasia vidua defuncti Djinnis Boken, PP Michaelae Mallovich et Georgio Dorkanich, per Joannem Detanovich, Parochum Kutt.*

7. *Copulatus e[st] Mathias Kudlek viduus, cum delecta sibi sponsa Barbara filia defuncti Joannis Gredyan, PP Michaelae Mallovich et Georgio Dorkanich, per Joannem Detanovich, Parochum Kutt.*

7. *Copulatus e[st] Stephanus Kudlek viduus, cum delecta sibi sponsa Agatha filia defuncti Joannis Martinich, PP Michaelae Mallovich et Georgio Dorkanich, per Joannem Detanovich, Parochum Kutt.*

7. *Copulatus e[st] Barbara vidua defuncti Joannis, mater Agathae, cum delecta sibi sponsa Stephan Szmudy, PP Michaelae Mallovich et Georgio Dorkanich, per Joannem Detanovich, Parochum Kutt.*

7. *Copulatus e[st] Blasius Martinich viduus, cum delecta sibi sponsa Dorothea filia defuncti Pauli Mihacz, PP Michaelae Mallovich et Georgio Dorkanich, per Joannem Detanovich, Parochum Kutt.*

7. *Copulatus e[st] Maria Martinich vidua defuncti Joannis, mater Agathae, cum delecta sibi sponsa Stephan Szmudy, PP Michaelae Mallovich et Georgio Dorkanich, per Joannem Detanovich, Parochum Kutt.*

7. *Copulatus e[st] Emerius Szmudy viduus, cum delecta sibi sponsa Catharina filia defuncti Pauli Poszavetric, PP Michaelae Mallovich et Georgio Dorkanich, per Joannem Detanovich, Parochum Kutt.*

7. *Copulatus e[st] Bartholomeus Martinich viduus, cum delecta sibi sponsa Rosalia filia defuncti Michaeli Jagust, PP Michaelae Mallovich et Georgio Dorkanich, per Joannem Detanovich, Parochum Kutt.*

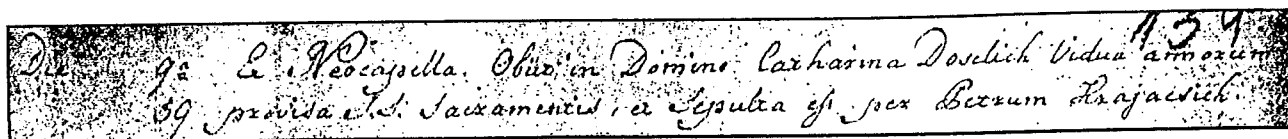
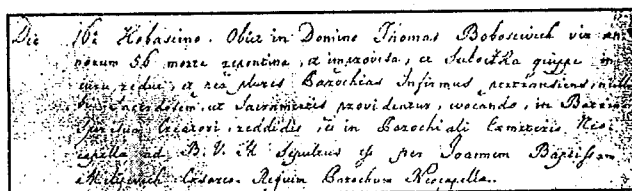


Fig. 12a - Latin death record of Catharina Doschlich from Nova Kapela

Death records are equally simple, listing the deceased's place of residence, gender and age. The 9 October entry (fig. 12a) reads: *Die 9a. Ex Neocapella. Obiit in Domino Catharina Doschlich vidua annorum 39 provisa S. S. Sacramentis, et sepulta est per Petrum Hrajaczich.* In English: "On [October] 9<sup>th</sup>. From Nova Kapela. Catharina Doschlich, a widow 37 years old, died in the Lord, having received Last Rites she was buried by Petar Hrajaczich."

Entries can sometimes offer more personal detail and display a dramatic or literary quality. Consider, for example, the death of 16 November (Fig. 12b): *Die 16. Ex Kobascino. Obit in Domino Thomas Bobisovich vir annorum 56 morte repentina, et improvisa, ex Suboczka quippe in caru [sic] redux, et per plures Parochias infirmus pertransiens, nulli [u]bi Sacerdotem, ut Sacramentis provideatur, evocando, in Batzina Spiritum Creatori, reddidit, et in Parochiali Cemetery Neocapellae ad B. [e]atam V. [irginem] M. [ariam] Sepultus est per Joannem Baptistam Miljevich Casareo. Regium Parochum Neocapellae.* "On the 16<sup>th</sup>. From Kobascino. Thomas Bobisovich died in the Lord at age 56 from a death that was both sudden and unforeseen, so much so that he, while ill, was returned with care from Suboczka, passing through many towns where there was no priest, so that he might be given Last Rites. In Batzina, crying out, he yielded to the Spirit of the Creator and was buried in the parochial cemetery "Blessed Virgin Mary" of Nova Kapela by Djinnis Baptista Miljevich, senior priest of the Nova Kapela parish."

Fig. 12b - Latin death record for Thomas Bobiscivich



Important key words and phrases in these Latin records are:

- Baptisatus, -a est* (feminine past perfect passive construction from *baptizo*) meaning "was baptised"
- Copulatus est ... cum* meaning "was married ... to"
- Die* (ablative singular from *dies*: day) meaning "on the day [of]"
- Defuncti* (genitive singular of *defunctus*, participle from the deponent *defungor*) meaning "of the deceased"
- Legitimus, -a* meaning "legitimate"
- Levante* (abbr. *Lte*, gerund or gerundive from *levo*: to raise). Roman belief held new born children were raised from

the ground into life by the goddess *Levana*, hence the Latin meaning "midwife." Here, by extension from the act of drawing out an infant from a baptismal font, "god-parent"

*Mense* (ablative singular of *mensis*: month) meaning "in the month [of]"

*Obiit* (from *obeo*) meaning "(s)he died"

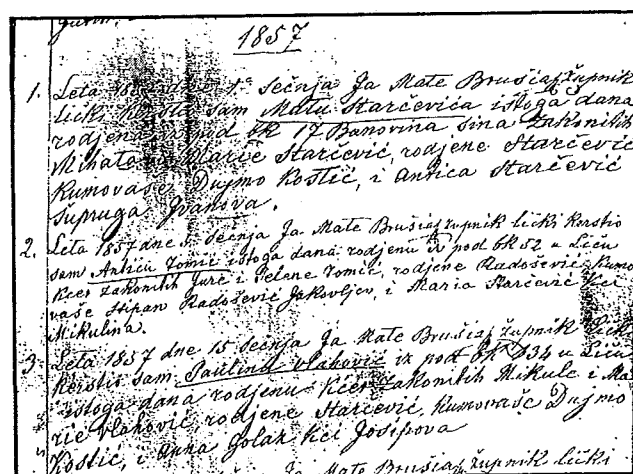
*Patrinus, -a*, pl. *patrini* (abbr. *P.* or *PP.*) meaning "patron, protector", and so in a marriage context, "witness"

*Viduus, vidua* meaning "widower, widow"

#### Croatian Catholic (Greek and Roman) Documents

Birth records in Croatian are similar to their Latin counterparts. Figure 13 is an example from the parish of Lič. Entry 1 reads: *Leta 1857 dne 1a Sečnja Ja Mate Brušič župnik lički kerstio sam Matu Starčevića istoga dana rodjena iz pod b[roja] k[uće] 17 Banovina sina zakonitih Mihata i Marie Starčević, rodjene Starčević. Kumovaše Dujmo Kostić, i Antica Starčević šupruga Ivanova.* In English: "On 1 January 1857, I Mate Brušič, the priest of Lič, baptised Mate Starčević, born on the same day at house number (book number?) 17, Banovina [of the Banat], a son of the lawfully married Mihata and Maria Starčević née Starčević. God-parents were Dujmo Kostić and Antica Starčević, spouse of Ivan."

Fig. 13 - Croatian birth records from Lič, 1857



Important key words and phrases in these Croatian records are:

- Dne* (adv.) meaning "on the date"
- Kumovaše* (from *kumovati*: to sponsor, be a god-parent)
- Krst* (*Kerst*) meaning "Christening"
- Leta* (old plural for *godina*) meaning "in the year"
- Sečnja* (old spelling of *siječanj*) meaning "January." The



other eleven months of the year, in calendrical order, are *veljača, o žujak, travanj, svibanj, lipanj, kolovoz, rujan, listopad, studeni* and *prosinac*

*Rodjen (Rođen)* meaning "born"

*Šuprug, -a* meaning "spouse"

*Zakonitih* (gen. pl. of *zakonit*) meaning "lawful, legitimate"

By 1878 the majority of Catholic marriage and death registration was written in Croatian. Figures 14 and 15 illustrate these record types on printed forms. The documents, when read from left to right, outline the following information.

#### Marriages:

*Broj tekući*, entry number

*Godina, mjesec, dan, kad su vjenčani*, year, month, and day when married

*Ime, prezime, stališ njihov*, personal name, surname, and profession (e.g. *poljodjelac*, farmer)

*Gdje su se rodili*, place of birth

*Gdje stanuju*, place of residence

*Vjera jim*, religion

*Doba jim*, age

*Jesu li mladenci ili udovci*, single or widowed

*Ime, prezime, vjera, stališ njihovih roditeljah*, personal name, religion, surname, and profession of parents

*Ime, prezime, vjera, stališ njihovih svejedokah*, personal name, religion, surname, and profession of in-laws

*Ime, prezime, služba onoga, koji jih je vjenčao*, personal name, surname, and profession of marrying authority (e.g. *župnik*, priest)

*Jesu li ozvani? Je li jim se oprostio koji oziv ili koja zaprieka*, were there bans? Were they approved or was there an hinderance?

*Opazke*, observations and comments

#### Deaths:

*Broj tekući*, entry number

*Godina, mjesec, dan, kad je umro*, year, month, and day of death

*Ime, prezime, stališ njegov*, personal name, surname, and profession (of the deceased)

*Ime, prezime, stališ njegovih roditeljah ili žene*, name, surname, and profession of parents or wife

*Gdje je rođen*, place of birth

*Gdje je stanovao*, place of residence

*Verja mu*, religion

*Doba mu*, age

*Od čega je bolovao ili umre*, cause of death

*Je li primio svete sakramente umiruć ih?* Was the deceased given Last Rites?

*Gdje i kad je pokopan?* Place and date of the burial

*Ime, prezime i služba onoga, koji ga je pokopao*, personal name, surname, and profession of person performing the burial

*Opazke*, observations or comments

Fig. 14 - Croatian marriage records from Brestovac

Broj tekući	Godina, mjesec, dan, kad su vjenčani	Zaručnik i zaručnica						Ime, prezime, vjera, stališ njihovih roditeljah	Ime, prezime, vjera, stališ njihovih svejedokah	Ime, prezime, služba onoga, koji jih je vjenčao	Jesu li ozvani? Je li jim se oprostio koji oziv ili koja zaprieka	Opazke
		Ime, prezime, stališ njihov	gdje su se rodili	gdje stanuju	vjera jim	doba jim	jesu li mladenci ili udovci					
11	1879 listopad 26	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo	Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo	RM	24 19 20	mladenci	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Stjepan Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Je li jim se oprostio koji oziv ili koja zaprieka	Opazke
12	1879 listopad 26	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo	Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo	RM	20 19	mladenci	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Stjepan Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Je li jim se oprostio koji oziv ili koja zaprieka	Opazke
13	1880 listopad 16	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo	Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo	RM	19	mladenci	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Stjepan Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Je li jim se oprostio koji oziv ili koja zaprieka	Opazke

Fig. 15 - Croatian death records from Brestovac

Broj tekući	Godina, mjesec, dan, kad je umro	Pokožnik						Od čega je bolovao ili umro?	Je li primio svete sakramente umiruć ih?	Gdje i kad je pokopan?	Ime, prezime i služba onoga, koji ga je pokopao	Opazke
		Ime, prezime, stališ njegov	Ime, prezime, stališ njegovih roditeljah ili žene	gdje je rođen	gdje je stanovao	vjera mu	doba mu					
10	1878 travnja 22	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo	Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo	RM	24			Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Stjepan Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	
11	1878 travnja 28	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Blasi Rodić Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo	Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo	RM	25			Branjevo Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	Stjepan Branjevo Branjevo poljodjelac	



Fig. 18 - Orthodox death record in Serbo-Croatian with Cyrillic script

Протокол крштених православне источне српске цркве, храма <i>Свети Савва</i>					Црква св. Савва у <i>Београду</i>				
Година, месец и дан	Крштеница	Име	Својим именом	Браћиност или небраћиност	Име, презиме, звање	Име, презиме, звање	Име, презиме, звање	Својим именом	ПРИМЕЧАЊА
1896. 1. 10.	<i>Јаснора</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>
1896. 16. 10.	<i>Јаснора</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>	<i>Савва</i>

Fig. 19 - Jewish birth record printed in Hungarian and German. Handwritten information is in German and Hebrew. Note Hebrew calendar dates of 5625-5627.

Születési Geburts-					Jegyzkönyv. Protokoll.				
A születésnek neve	A születés helye	A születés ideje	A születés módja	A születés helye	A születésnek neve	A születés helye	A születés ideje	A születés módja	A születés helye
1. <i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>28. 1866</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>28. 1866</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
2. <i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>30. 1866</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>30. 1866</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
3. <i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>25. 1866</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>25. 1866</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
4. <i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>19. 1867</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>19. 1867</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
5. <i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>18. 1867</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>Isidor Müller</i>	<i>18. 1867</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

## Working Aids

The challenges of Croatian genealogical research are numerous and range from language issues, document identification, through problems associated with historical geography. At times, all but the most savvy academic must seek assistance from scholarly publications. The following working aids are useful for providing information that may answer the many linguistic and locality questions that both the beginning and advanced researcher must address.

## Church Directories

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*Jugoslavija Auto Atlas*. Zagreb: Jugoslavenski Leksikografski Zavod, 1973.

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### Conclusion

The genealogical records of Croatia pose significant research opportunities for both success and frustration. The intent of this *Beginner's Guide* was to familiarize the genealogist, mainly by illustrated example, with the record types common to the nation of Croatia. A discussion of the research process itself, for several reasons, has been

avoided. Paramount among these considerations is the upcoming publication by FEEFHS of a *Beginner's Guide* to genealogy. This paper will discuss in detail basic research principles common to East and Central European genealogy. To further assist the reader with Croatian research, I have provide two supplementary documents: Appendix A, a list of all Roman and Greek Catholic parishes in Croatia, and Appendix B, a summary of all Croatian localities microfilmed by the FHL through 1 May 1999. The users of this latter document can obtain microfilm numbers by consulting the Family History Library Catalog at <http://www.familysearch.org>.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> N. Nodilo, "Pad Salona," *Glasnik Matice Dalmatinske* (Kolovoz, 1903): 1-7.

<sup>2</sup> Stanko Guldescu, *History of Medieval Croatia* (The Hague: Mouton & Co., 1964), 34.

<sup>3</sup> Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus, *De administrando imperio*, ed. Gyula Moravcsik and R.J.H. Jenkins (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Center for Byzantine Studies, 1967, 1985 printing): ch. 31.

<sup>4</sup> Steven W. Blodgett, "Great-Grandfather was in the Imperial Cavalry: Using Austrian Military Records as an Aid to Writing Family History," in *Continental European Family and Local History*, vol. 7 of *World Conference on Records: Preserving our Heritage* (Salt Lake City: Corporation of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1980), series no. 504, p. 1-2.

<sup>5</sup> The term Greek Catholic has two meanings in Yugoslavian research. First, it can refer to an Orthodox believer who is not a member of the state religion; second, to an Uniat, i.e. one who practices the Eastern rite but recognizes the ruling authority of the Bishop of Rome. The researcher can readily make the distinction between Eastern rite Catholic and Orthodox parishes by consulting: Franz Raffelsperger, *Allgemeines geographisch-statistisches Lexikon aller österreichischen Staaten*, 9 vols. (Vienna: Verlag der K.K.A.P. Typographischen Kunstanstalt, 1845-1853). An example of this from vol. 4, p. 683: "Medare, Slavonien ... Dorf von 63 Häus. u. 328 Einw., mit einer griech. nicht unirten Pfarre," translates as "Medare, Slavonia ... a village of 63 houses and 328 residents, with a Greek [rite], non Uniat, parish."

<sup>6</sup> Source: *Enciklopedia Jugoslavije*, 8 vols. (Zagreb: Leksikografski Zavod, 1955-1971), 3:463.

# Addendum to Beginner's Guide to Croatian Research

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The "Beginner's Guide" published in the last issue of this journal focused on ecclesiastical and military records for the area of modern Croatia. The author deliberately avoided a description of civil registration documents due to a paucity of materials. A significant number of readers, however, have requested an example of Illyrian provincial registration. The transcribed and translated document below from Cres, Croatia, written in Italian, will hopefully accommodate their wish.

## Provincia Illiniche

Oggi due del mese di Settembre mille ottocento dodici innanzia me Antonio Zauaria Lion Maire di Cherso Circondario Comunale di Cherso dipartimento della Croazia Civile faciente le funzioni d'uffiziale pubblico dello stato Civile si sono presentati li Antonio Vitich del fu Antonio, e Pr. Zuanne Bolmarcich il primo di professione Teriere dell'eta' d'Anni cinquanta circa ed il secondo di professione Marinaio dell'eta' d'Anni quaranta otto circa dimorant in Cherso, Circondario Comunale di Cherso dipartimento della Croazia Civile, i quali dichiarano che Lorenzo Vitich del fu Antonio fratello del primonominato é morto quest'oggi alle ore undici mattina nel suo Domicilio posto in Contra rialto di questa città

dietro questa dichiarazione, ho esteso il presente Atto, che li predetti non hanno firmato per esser illetterati, ma soltanto io

Antonio Vitich +

Zuanne Bolmarcich +

## Illyrian Province

Today, 02 September 1812, Antonio (son of the deceased Antonio) Vitich and Pr. Zuanne Bolmarcich appeared before me, Antonio Zauria, civil registrar and *Lion Maire* of Cherso, municipal district of Cherso, civil department of Croatia. The first mentioned is a landowner around 50 years of age; the second, a sailor about 48. Both live in the city of Cherso, Cherso county, Croatia. They have declared that Lorenzo Vitich, son of the deceased Antonio and brother to the first mentioned gentleman, died today at 11:00 AM at his home in the *Contra Rialto* district of this city.

This record is continued on the reverse of this declaration. The above mentioned gentlemen have not signed this document, myself being the only literate person.

Antonio Vitich +

Zuanne Bolmarcich +

Civil registration from Cres, Croatia



trovono unitamente a me -  
D. Mario Corvin affm

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Provincia Illiniche  
Oggi due del mese di Settembre mille ottocento dodici innanzia me Antonio Zauaria Lion Maire di Cherso, Circondario Comunale di Cherso, dipartimento della Croazia Civile faciente le funzioni d'uffiziale pubblico dello stato Civile, si sono presentati li Antonio Vitich del fu Antonio, e Pr. Zuanne Bolmarcich il primo di professione Teriere dell'eta' d'Anni cinquanta circa ed il secondo di professione Marinaio dell'eta' d'Anni quaranta otto circa dimoranti in Cherso, Circondario Comunale di Cherso dipartimento della Croazia Civile, i quali dichiarano che Lorenzo Vitich del fu Antonio fratello del primonominato é morto quest'oggi alle ore undici mattina nel suo Domicilio posto in Contra Rialto di questa città -  
Dietro questa dichiarazione, ho esteso il presente Atto, che li predetti non hanno firmato per esser illetterati, ma soltanto io  
Antonio Vitich +  
Zuanne Bolmarcich +